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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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MAR 22 2001

Technology Center 2600

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March 19, 2001

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Further to the Preliminary Amendment filed February 20, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows prior to examination:

Please cancel Claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please add Claims 70-83 as follows:

--70. An apparatus for communicating with a camera through a communication system, the camera being controllable from each of a plurality of control apparatuses coupled to the communication system, said apparatus comprising:

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of the study population	
Age (years)	50.0 ± 10.0
Gender	
Male	50.0%
Female	50.0%
Education (years)	12.0 ± 2.0
Marital status	
Married	80.0%
Single	20.0%
Occupation	
Professional	30.0%
Managerial	20.0%
Technical	10.0%
Service	20.0%
Unemployed	20.0%
Income (USD/month)	1000.0 ± 500.0
Health status	
Good	70.0%
Fair	20.0%
Poor	10.0%

a connecting device adapted to connect the communicating system; and

a control device adapted to inhibit others of said plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera when one of said control apparatuses controls the camera through the communication system.

71. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein said control apparatus controls each of a plurality of cameras through said communication system.

72. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a designation device adapted to designate a desired image on a screen of a display device.

73. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein said control device inhibits another control apparatus from controlling the camera for a predetermined period of time.

74. An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein said control device releases the other control apparatus from being inhibited from controlling the camera after the predetermined period of time has lapsed.

75. An apparatus according to Claim 73, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to

display a time at which the control of the camera is inhibited.

76. An apparatus according to Claim 70, wherein the control apparatus comprises a display device adapted to display that said one of said plurality of control apparatuses controls the camera, in case of that the control of the camera is inhibited.

77. A method of controlling a camera coupled to a communication system having a plurality of control apparatuses, wherein the camera is controllable by each of said plurality of control apparatuses, said method comprising the steps of:

a step of controlling the camera through the communication system with one of the plurality of control apparatuses; and

a step of inhibiting the others of said plurality of control apparatuses from controlling the camera through the communication system when the camera is controlled by said one of the plurality of control apparatuses through the communication system.

78. A method according to Claim 77, wherein a plurality of cameras are coupled to the communication system, and wherein said step of controlling comprises the step of controlling the plurality of cameras, through said

communications system, by the one of the plurality of control apparatuses.

79. A method according to Claim 77, further comprising the step of displaying a plurality of images on the screen, and the step of designating one of the images displayed on the screen.

80. A method according to Claim 77, wherein said inhibiting step comprises the step of inhibiting said others of said plurality of control apparatuses from controlling said camera for a predetermined period of time.

81. A method according to Claim 80, further comprising the step of releasing said others of said plurality of control apparatuses from being inhibited from controlling said camera after said predetermined period of time has lapsed.

82. A method according to Claim 80, further comprising the step of displaying an indication that the camera is controlled by said one of the plurality of control apparatus, to the control apparatus which is inhibited from controlling the camera in case of that the control of the camera is inhibited.--

REMARKS

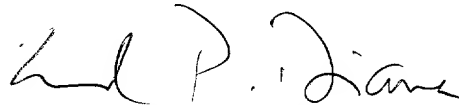
Claims 70-83 are now presented for examination, having been added in place of Claim 1, which has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Claims 70 and 77 are independent.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present divisional application.

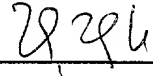
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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